

Passport/citizenship documents for travellers

1279. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government issued a notification making it mandatory for the travellers who want to travel to Nepal are required to have a passport or citizenship document as a proof with them; and

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing such notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to streamlining procedures and improving security, India and Nepal have agreed to tighten the existing system whereby Indian and Nepalese nationals travelling by air between the two countries are required to present photo identification documents to establish their nationality. A pruned-down list of admissible travel documents was introduced with effect from October 1, 2000.

Indian citizens are required to be in possession of any one of the following document while travelling by air between the two countries:

- Valid national passport.
- Photo identity card issued by the Government of India/any State Government or Union Territory Administration in India.
- Identity card issued by the Election Commission of India.
- Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Nepalese citizens are required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

- Valid national passport.
- Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal.
- Emergency Certificate issued by the Royal Nepalese Embassy

in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years do not require the above-mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

US assistance to deal with terrorism

1280. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have decided to qualitatively upgrade its assistance to India to deal with terrorism and share its expertise in "Strengthening Counter-terrorism Institution Structures", at a meeting of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on "Counter-terrorism", held in Washington on 26th June, 2001;

(b) whether meeting also held consultations on the Indian proposal for a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism; and

(c) whether the two countries also agreed to hold a Seminar on countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorist threats later this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The United States Government has agreed to develop and offer programmes, through mutual consultation, on range of specific proposals made by Government in anti-terrorism training, including programmes for inter-departmental coordination, crisis response and consequence management. The two sides will also conduct a joint survey to increase the effectiveness of anti-terrorism training programme. Details of the U.S.-proposed seminar in New Delhi on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats are being finalised through consultations between the two sides. The Joint Working Group continued the on-going consultations on India-proposed Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism